

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 14, 1861.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. HALE submitted the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of Captain French Forrest, United States Navy, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report:*

The claim of the petitioner is for the difference of pay between that that he received and that of commander of a squadron during a period of seven months and twelve days, in which he claims that he was senior officer on the Pacific stations, in the years 1841 and 1842.

The petitioner exhibits no order, or proof of an order, from the Navy Department to hoist a broad pennant, nor does it appear that he was recognized by it as commanding a squadron; on the contrary, his rank being only that of a commander in command of a sloop-of-war, (the St. Louis,) he was ineligible to that position, and, as a commander of a sloop-of-war at sea, under the act of 1835, entitled only to \$2,500 a year, as the highest pay of his grade. Captains in the Navy temporarily in command as senior officers, have uniformly, on similar applications, been denied a recommendation by the naval committee, and your committee are not aware of any precedent in favor of the lower grade of commander.

Your committee are, therefore, of opinion that the petitioner presents no just ground for the allowance prayed, and, under the general rule of action adopted by them, of the policy of refusing to grant to officers of the Navy any higher pay than that allowed to them by law, they ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

